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FLOOR DEBATE

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election a member is elected to serve the unexpired term. If the vacancy occurs within the 60 days, or hopefully the amended 75 days, before a regular general election, and if the term vacated expires in January following that regular general election, the appointee serves the unexpired term. And then there's another provision that if the vacancy occurs within the 75 days before a regular general election and if the term vacated extends beyond January following that regular general election, the appointee serves until January, but would run then in that general election. So there's a possibility that someone could...there could be a vacancy, at present, where that person might serve for five years without having to face a general election. And this is primarily what this bill is addressing, is that following some of the protocol that we do, for instance, in the Legislature, that that person would be up for election at the next general election. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I do have committee amendments as offered by the Education Committee, AM0065. (Legislative Journal page 344.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Senator Stuhr has, I think, alluded to several features of the committee amendment. We're dealing specifically in the committee amendment with the situation in which someone is appointed 75...or, more than...75 or more days before a general election. The committee amendments would require that a person, in order to get on the ballot, a petition on the ballot, would collect signatures amounting to 10 percent of voters in the regent district, except that, there's a cap, it would not have to exceed 1,000 signatures. The idea being that regent districts are large in Nebraska, there are only six, so there are over 200,000 people in each district. There may be a short amount of time to get those signatures. But 10 percent of the signatures, up to a maximum of 1,000 signatures. In addition,